

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

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R 201236Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4552

INFO RUESON AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN 166

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMCONSUL PARAMARIBO

AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

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3.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, ECIN, EMIN, EIND, PFOR, DR

SUBJECT: MINERALS: THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN BAUXITE, GOLD, AND
PETROLEUM CONCESSIONS

REF: (A) SD 5065, DEC 11, 1974

(B) SD A-40, APRIL 25, 1975

1. PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSIONS ARE CURRENTLY MEETING TO CONSIDER GODR
TERMS FOR FUTURE BAUXITE, GOLD, AND PETROLEUM CONCESSIONS. IN EACH
CASE THE COMMISSION IS MADE UP OF THE SAME DOMINICAN OFFICIALS, NAMEL
Y,
SECRETARY OF FINANCE FERNANDO ALVAREZ BOGAERT AS CHAIRMAN, AND SECRET
ARY
OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE GUIDO D'ALESSANDRO, AND EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR OF CEDOPEX FERNANDO PERICHE VIDAL. ACCORDING TO D'ALESSANDR
O,
FORMER FINANCE SECRETARY CARLOS SELIMAN, WHO NOW HAS THE TITLE OF
SECRETARY OF STATE WITHOUT PORTFOLIO AND ECONOMIC ADVISER TO THE
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PRESIDENT, IS ALSO "IN FACT" A MEMBER OF EACH COMMISSION.

2. BAUXITE - THE INTERIM SETTLEMENT WITH ALCOA ON THEIR TERMS FOR FUTURE OPERATIONS OF ITS BAUXITE CONCESSION EXPIRES SEPT. 30 (SEE REFTEL A). SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS ARE EXPECTED TO BE UNDERWAY WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS, WITH GODR STILL TAKING THE POSITION THAT IT WANTS NO LESS THAN THE "JAMACIAN FORMULA."

3. GOLD - THE ROSARIO GOLD MINING COMPANY WANTS TO EXPAND THE AREA OF ITS EXPLOITATION BY SEVERAL HUNDRED SQUARE HECTARES. ACCORDING TO JACK SCHISSLER, LOCAL ROSARIO MANAGER, HIS COMPANY ALREADY HAS THE RIGHT TO EXPLOIT THIS ADDITIONAL AREA. D'ALESSANDRO HAS INDICATED PUBLICLY IN THE PRESS AND PRIVATELY TO EMBOFFS THAT HE IS AGREEABLE TO ROSARIO'S BEGINNING EXPLOITATION OF TWO OF THE SIX PLOTS IN QUESTION, BUT HE WANTS ROSARIO TO EXPLORE THE REMAINING FOUR SO THAT THE GODR WILL KNOW WHAT THEY ARE WORTH BEFORE AGREEING ON FINAL TERMS FOR AN EXTENDED EXPLOITATION CONCESSION. D'ALESSANDRO, WHOSE SECRETARIAT HAS JURISDICTION OVER MINERALS, SAYS THAT ROSARIO'S RIGHT TO AN EXTENDED AREA OF "EXPLORATION" IMPLIES NO RIGHT TO EXTENDED "EXPLOITATION." THE CENTRAL BANK, WHICH HAS 20 PERCENT OWNERSHIP IN THE LOCAL ROSARIO OPERATION, IS REMAINING VERY QUIET ABOUT THE WHOLE QUESTION. (THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSIONS AND CENTRAL BANK GOVERNOR DIOGENES FERNANDEZ ARE USUALLY AT LOGGERHEADS OVER MONETARY BOARD AND OTHER POLICIES.)

4. PETROLEUM EXPLORATION - TEXACO'S REQUEST FOR A CONCESSION TO EXPLORE FOR PETROLEUM HAS BEEN IN ABEYANCE FOR SEVERAL MONTHS (SEE REFAIR B). THIS WEEK, HOWEVER, THE GODR DELIVERED A MODEL SERVICE CONTRACT TO TEXACO FOR ITS COMMENTS. THUS FAR, TEXACO HAS BEEN THE ONLY WELL-KNOWN PETROLEUM COMPANY WHICH HAS ASKED FOR A CONCESSION. FIVE OR SIX OTHER APPLICANT COMPANIES, INCLUDING A VENEZUELAN (LAS MERCEDES), LACK THE RESOURCES WHICH WOULD PROBABLY BE REQUIRED FOR A MAJOR EXPLORATION EFFORT.
HURWITCH

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